Comment Letter PJ

PJ

From: Phil Johnson [pjohnsonhardwood@sunset.net]

Sent: Friday, January 20, 2006 8:04 PM

To: sdip_comments

Subject: Increased Pumping Threatens California's Bay-Delta Estuary

Phil Johnson 14548 Blackberry Rd. Forest Ranch, CA 95942-9749

January 20, 2006

Paul Marshall Department of Water Resources 1416 Ninth Street 2nd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Marshall:

Mr. Paul A. Marshall California Department of Water Resources 1416 9th Street - 2nd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814

On behalf of the Altacal Audubon Society, the North Valley's Audubon chapter, I would like to state an opposition to the increase of water diversions from the Delta. The fading ecological health of the Bay-Delta region should be first priority in any decision making process. Conservation measures should be exploited to their fullest before any more water is diverted from the Delta. Please stand up for preservation of what is left of the delta.

PJ-1

Altacal Audubon, President

Phil Johnson 570-7139

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PJ-1

The effects of the SDIP on biological resources, including fish, are fully described in the SDIP Draft EIS/EIR in Chapter 6, which includes impact assessment for fish, vegetation and wetlands, and wildlife. Where a significant effect is found to result from implementation of the SDIP, DWR and Reclamation will implement mitigation measure(s) to ensure that the overall impact is less than significant. Additionally, DWR and Reclamation have committed to a Stage 2 evaluation as explained in Master Response B, *Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline*.

Comment Letter JK

Jan 31, 2006JK Llear Mr. Marshall, FEB 0 9 2006 (SDIP) DEIR/S I believe this project will the Delta & San trancisco We already know there, I believe we need quality & fish habitat take more water away from the Swerting More water from the won't help it either. Please place le on your mailing. John Kalley Mr. John Keeley 125 Grafton Avenue San Francisco, CA 94112

JK-1

Please see Master Response B, Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline.

Comment Letter NK

NK

2020 Nora Drive Hollister, CA 95023

January 22, 2006

JAN 3 / 2006

00118

Mr. Paul Marshall California Dept. of Water Resources South Delta Branch 1416 9th St., 2d Floor Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Marshall,

I am writing this letter as a concerned citizen of California. I understand that there is a draft environmental impact report for the South Delta Improvements Program which would increase the maximum pumping limit for the state water project's Delta pumps to 8500 cubic feet per second. I strongly believe this would do damage to the Bay-Delta ecosystem, which has already been damaged by excessive water diversions. I urge you to issue a new draft which significantly reduces the Delta water diversions. I urge you to include as much water for ecosystem restoration as is required by the CalFed Bay-Delta Plan.

NK-1

Sincerely,

Mancy Kops Nancy Kops

NK-1

Please see Master Response D, Developing and Screening Alternatives Considered in the South Delta Improvements Program Draft EIS/EIR.

Comment Letter PBL

PBL

3712 61st Street Sacramento, CA 95820 14 January 2006

JAN 2 0 2008 00061

Mr. Paul A. Marshall California Department of Water Resources 1416 9th Street – 2nd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: South Delta Improvement Project DEIR/S

Dear Mr. Marshall:

Thank you for soliciting public comments in response to the South Delta Improvement Project (SDIP) DEIR/S.

It is inappropriage to move forward with a project that will increase water deliveries by pumping more fresh water from the Delta when Delta fish populations are crashing. Please withdraw the plan until the causes of the Delta fish decline are identified and fully resolved.

PBL-1

Further, the DWR should consider an alternative that significantly reduces Delta pumping from current levels and actually improves Delta water quality and wildlife habitat.

PBL-2

The evidence I have seen suggests that California does not need to increase Delta diversions to meet its current and future water needs. The State's own Water Plan demonstrates that increased investments in urban and agricultural water use efficiency and reclamation can meet our needs well into the future.

PBL-3

My consideration of this issue is made from the viewpoint of a professional economist, having taught university-level economics for 36 years, including courses that deal with California water economics.

Sincerely,

Peter B. Lund

Peter B. Lund

PBL-1

Please see Master Response B, Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline.

PBL-2

Please see Master Response D, Developing and Screening Alternatives Considered in the South Delta Improvements Program Draft EIS/EIR.

PBL-3

Please see Master Response L, Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the California Water Plan Update 2005.

Comment Letter RML

RML

Feb 07, 2006 00137

February 6, 2006

Mr. Paul A Marshall Department of Water Resources South Delta Branch Draft EIS/EIR Comments 1416 9th Street, 2^{ad} Floor Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: South Delta Improvements Program

Dear Mr. Marshall:

I am an owner of riverfront property in the South Delta. I'm very concerned with the possible impacts the permanent flow control gates will have on the river. Our property is downstream of the gates at Grant Line and Fabian and Old River. The barriers will have the following impacts on our use of the Delta:

- Barriers will impede access to Grant Line and Fabian canals. This barriers will force
 more boaters onto the already congested West Canal. The increase boat traffic will make
 these canals more dangerous. The delta is already a treacherous location for boating.
- 2. Barriers may lower water levels downstream making boat access more difficult. The area around Hammer Island, Middleton's Island and Little Hawaii have historic erosion and siltation problems. This is caused by the increased water velocity due to pumping action. The barriers may exacerbate the problem by holding back flows from Old River and Grant Line, Fabian and increasing flows from West Canal. Increased flows may cause additional erosion and sitlation problems. Will the Department of Water Resoures take responsibility for the siltation and erosion problems for the area around the CVP intake?
- 3. There is significant boat traffic accessing Grant Line and Fabian Canels from the west end. The flow control gates will make this access much more difficult and will close-off a significant portion of the south delta to boaters. Very few boaters access these canals from the east. Has a study been done to assess the impact to the boating community? The gates should be moved to the east end of Grant Line and Fabian!

Considering the recent decline in the delta smelt and other indicators signaling a significant problem with the delta, shouldn't these major modifications to the delta be reconsidered or delayed until there is more understanding of the delta environment and the reasons for the fish declines?

RML-3

RML-1

RML-2

RML-1

Sincerely,

Robert M. Lyman 920 Old Hawthorne Rd Lafayette, CA 94549

RML-1

As described in Section 7.4, the overall area available for recreation in the south Delta would not change substantially. The operable gate would be in a location different from that of the current temporary barrier on Grant Line Canal; the permanent gate would be open during much of the day, and a boat lock would be operated when the gate is closed to allow passage of boats.

RML-2

Velocities in West Canal would be maintained by dredging the canal to improve its conveyance capacity.

RML-3

Please see Master Response B, Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline.

Comment Letter JIM

JIM

January 15, 2006

JAN 27 2006 00082

Paul A. Marshall Department of Water Resources South Delta Branch c/o NCCFFF P.O. Box 8330 Berkeley, CA 94707

Dear Mr. Marshall.

I am writing to make you aware that I oppose actions proposed in the draft EIR/EIS for the South Delta Improvements Program. This proposal will only further compromise/complicate the ecology of the Bay-Delta regions. The proposed dredging, water-gate barriers, increased pumping and increased water exports will only worsen the Bay-Delta ecosystem. These proposed changes will lead to changes in water quality, the amount of water, and the natural composition of the Delta and Bay water which will change the natural flora and fauna of these areas. Increasing the water diversion and decreasing volume from the delta will reduce the "flushing action" into the SF Bay and surrounding tidelands forever changing the area for millions of people. Although the proposal suggests that the amount of water diverted is ONLY 3-5%; however, any amount will have a severe environmental impact to the delta and to the SF Bay.

JIM-1

JIM-2

Instead of the measures proposed by the Department of Water Resources—the increase diversion, new gates, dredging, and agricultural modifications, I suggest instead reducing the pumping rates and water exports from the Delta. Instead restore the natural delta ecosystem—have it be as it should—natural wetlands. Dredging and barriers will only reduce the wetlands, affect ecology, affect the flora and fauna, affect fish and game resources, increase potential for floods, and decrease water quality in SF Bay and Delta water regions.

JIM-3

JIM-4

Our need for water can be met through conservation, reclamation, and efficiency. Not by physically altering the Delta region forever.

Thank you,

MM Manyels

James I. Mangels 2311 Tucker Court

Santa Rosa, CA 95403

JIM-1

Please see Master Response B, Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline and Master Response K, Staged Decision Making Process

JIM-2

The SDIP EIS/EIR includes an assessment of Stage 1 and Stage 2 impacts on aquatic resources. Please see Master Response B, *Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline*

JIM-3

Please see Master Response D, Developing and Screening Alternatives Considered in the South Delta Improvements Program Draft EIS/EIR.

JIM-4

The environmental impacts of constructing and operating the fish control gate and flow control gates and conducting conveyance dredging are disclosed in the SDIP EIS/EIR. The analysis concluded that these actions would result in significant impact on certain resources. The resources affected are summarized in SDIP EIS/EIR Table ES-2. Each significant impact would be reduced to a less than by the application of the specified mitigation measure(s).

Comment Letter DM

DM

From: independentwomonvoice@hotmail.com Tuesday, January 24, 2006 5:00 PM Marshall, Paul Sent:

To: SDIP DEIR/S Subject:

Mr. Paul Marshall California Department of Water Resources 1416 9th Street - 2nd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Marshall,

I urge you not to support SDIP DEIR/S at least until problems with the San Francisco Bay Delta are resolved. (i.e. lower fish populations ect.) California will do just fine without taking from the already troubled Delta. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Danielle Martin 3425 Spring St. #3 Paso Robles, California 93446

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DM-1

Please see Master Response K, Staged Decision Making Process

Comment Letter GMM

GMM

FEB 14 2006 00203

Grace M. Marvin, Ph.D. Julian C. Zener, M.D. 1621 N. Cherry St. Chico, CA 95926

February 2, 2006

Mr. Paul Marshall California Department of Water Resources 1416 9th St.- 2nd floor Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Marshall:

We are in accord with the following recommendation and urge you to consider it, for the reasons presented below:

Please withdraw the SDIP DEIR/S until the causes of the Delta ecosystem decline are identified and fully resolved.
 Increased Delta pumping will require increased exploitation of Sacramento Valley water which will negatively impact the economy and environmental health of areas of origin.
 Increased demands on Sacramento Valley water will damage groundwater dependent business and ecosystems in areas of origin.
 California does not need to increase Delta diversions to meet its current and future water needs. The State's own Water Plan proves that increased investments in urban and agricultural water use efficiency and reclamation can meet our needs well into the future.

Sincerely,

Grace M. Marvin, Ph.D.

are M. Marin

Julian C. Zener, M.D.

GMM-1

Please see Master Response B, Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline.

GMM-2

Section 5.1 of the SDIP EIS/EIR provides information on the amount of water that would be exported as part of Stage 2. This information provided the basis for evaluating the environmental impacts resulting from changes in reservoir storage (Oroville, Shasta, and Folsom) and river flows (Sacramento, Feather, and American). The changes in reservoir storage or river flows as a result of operating Stage 2 would be very small and are not expected to result in significant environmental impacts. South of Delta exports would not increase under Stage 2.

GMM-3

Please see Master Response L, Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the California Water Plan Update 2005.

Comment Letter FM

FM

FEB 0 9 2006 00188

Frank Middleton

5871 Starboard Drive Byron, California 94514 Tel: (925) 634-2986

Fax: (925) 634-5150 Email: fmbeta@solagracia.com

February 2, 2006

Lester A. Snow, Director CA Dept. of Water Resources 1416 9th St Room 115-1 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Opposition To The South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP)

Dear Director Snow;

I am opposed to the SDIP plan for the following;

My family and I have been using the Delta for the past 39 years for various water related activities i.e. fishing, water skiing and cruising. Additionally we have resided continuously in Discovery Bay for the past 22 years.

The proposal to place 4 dams across waterways in the South Delta will effectively cut off over 50 miles of prime fishing that starts less than 7 miles away from our home.

FM-1

Additionally during high tides, particularly in the winter the dams would create considerable pressure on the levies and could cause flooding.

FM-2

I again oppose the placing of any dams across navigable water ways that I frequent.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Frank Middleton

CC: Paul Marshall

CA Dept. of Water Resources

FM-1

The head of Old River fish control gate, Grant Line flow control gate, and the Old River flow control gate each include a boat lock that will maintain boat passage when the gates are in operation. Although the Middle River gate does not include a boat lock, boat passage would be allowed when the gate is not in operation. As discussed in Section 7.4 of the SDIP EIS/EIR, restricting access to Middle River is not expected to substantially reduce boating opportunities because most boats cannot access the channel because it is shallow and narrow.

FM-2

Section 5.5 of the SDIP EIS/EIR provides an assessment of the potential flood control impacts of the project. The gates have been designed to be flood neutral and would not affect flood stages or channel velocities.

Comment Letter WSM

FEB 07 2006 00126

February 1, 2006

Mr. Paul Marshall SDIP EIR/EIR Comments Department of Water Resources 1416 Ninth Street Sacramento, Ca 95814

Dear Mr. Marshall

My Grandfather purchased Hammer Island, across from the Delta Mendota Canal Fish Screens, in 1939 and I and my family have been coming to the Delta ever since. I have been living on my island, Middleton's Island also across from the fish screens at Delta Mendota Canal, since 1982.

I see what the water export/pumping is doing to the Delta. The deterioration of the fishing and water quality, the scouring of the levees and islands, the siltation, and the very fast current that rusher by our area causing other problems including bringing all the water lilies down to our area.

I went to your meeting last Thursday in Stockton and the people who spoke against you plan are all people who use or live on the Delta and they see first hand what is happening. You should listen to them.

The barriers that you no propose to make permanent were originally put in because the local farmers were suing the government for lowering river water levels so a point that they could not pump their irrigation water from the Delta. Subsequently, the government has come up with new benefits that do not make any sense at all I do not know why the government changed the purpose of these barriers or why they want to install permanent ones. They block the natural flow of the rivers and they lower the water level on our side of the barriers which is the side you pump from They also cause siltation in our area and seem to cause more problems than they cure.

I think you are very short sited to plan to continue to export more water. What is going to happen fifty to a hundred years from now? You cannot continue to think that the Delta water can continue to supply the population growth that California is surely going to have in the future

You need to seek other sources of water, such as taking the salt out of seawater. If you do not, you will be pumping seawater from the Delta someday. If you implemented a desalination plan now and gradually mixed the sea water with other water sources and gradually decreased the export of water from the Delta, then the Delta could heal itself. At the same time, you need to mplement water conservation in Southern California. Do the homes in Southern California have water meters. They need to have them and they need to be charged enough so that they conserve water.

WSM-1

To think that to improve the quality of the Delta water by pumping more water down south is crazy

WSM-1

Please see Master Response D, Developing and Screening Alternatives Considered in the South Delta Improvements Program Draft EIS/EIR.

Comment Letter VM

VM

Paul A. Marshall California Department of Water Resources South Delta Branch 1416 9th Street, 2nd floor Sacramento, CA 95814

FEB 0 9 2006 00190

Dear Mr. Marshall,

To start off, I am an eighth grader currently attending St. Edward's Catholic School in Newark, California.

I am writing to you about my complaints concerning the issue of water resources and the Bay-Delta ecosystem.

The main problem, in my opinion, is the use of large amounts of water in which fish live in. This will only lead to an extermination of the fish. As humans, we need air to survive. Likewise, the fish need water to survive. It would be the same difference when you compare it to your number one priority, which is living. If you consume most of the water, the fish would have less space to live in and would therefore find it difficult to survive. Water is a big part of everyone's lives, but the Bay Area has so many water resources that I think it would be best if we save the water for those who need it most. I'm not implying that we should never use water. We need it as well! We need to just think more responsibly when it comes to using water. It is nature and we should be thankful that we have it.

What you can do to help prevent this is maybe think of a way to make less of the amount of water you take. There are many Bay Area water resources that don't have to deal with fish. If you would use that water, there is a better chance of saving the fish that need the water. If you save water instead of using them on useless things, you would probably have a good amount to satisfy your needs.

VM-1

In conclusion, I would ask of you to save the water for the fish and others who need it. It would be great to save God's creations and not waste it. If you will take my complaint as serious as possible that would really help because the fish really need their water. Please look for another place to get your water that doesn't harm any creatures' health and chance to live a healthy life.

Thank you for your time. I really appreciate it.

Sincerely,

V. Munoy

Vicki Munoz

VM-1

Please see Master Response D, Developing and Screening Alternatives Considered in the South Delta Improvements Program Draft EIS/EIR.

Comment Letter SN

Steven and Susan Nozet 5802 Drakes Dríve Discovery Bay, Californía 94514 (925) 516-5975 SN

FEB 0 7 2006 00130

February 1, 2006

Paul Marshall California Department of Water Resources 1416 – 9th Street, Room 1115-1 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: South Delta Improvement Project (SDIP)

Dear Mr. Marshall:

I am a homeowner in the town of Discovery Bay, California. I am writing to you with regards to my concerns over the proposal of 4 dams being built to allow the pumping of an additional 5,000,000 gallons of water each day to Los Angeles and other Southern California locations (otherwise known as the SDIP).

The negative impact that this will have on our Delta water is inarguable. The additional pumping will cause the salt water levels to increase and degrade the already fragile delta environment. The existing pumping changes the natural tidal flow of the area and the impending additional pumping will lower the water levels even more.

SN-1

If you do not live in any one of the wonderful communities that surround our Delta, you would probably not realize the impact of this project for homeowners like me. Tide swings due to winter rain and restrictive water flow caused by the dams will cause major damage to our levees, homes and docks. During the summer months when we have low tide combined with the capability to pump another 5 million gallons of water each day will cause the delta in my area to see ultra low areas and mud bottoms.

SN-2

I bought a home in Discovery Bay, in part, because of the wonderful Delta that surrounds it. Not only will the increase in salinity and decrease in water depth affect the value of my home, but it will, more importantly, affect the local environment that we as Californians, say we care so much about. I am not too familiar with all of the investigations and tests that have been made to substantiate the fact that the ecology of the entire Delta is diminishing, but if you listen to the fish, (of which there are literally hundreds of thousands less than there used to be), the message is loud and clear.

Please take steps to ensure this project does not go any further!

Sincerely,

Steven Nozet

SN/bas

SN-1

Section 5.3 of the SDIP EIS/EIR provides an assessment of changes in water quality conditions under SDIP Stage 1 and Stage 2. The analysis concluded that salinity in the interior South Delta would decrease and slightly decrease at Emmaton and Jersey Point for both SDIP Stage 1 and Stage 2. These changes were not substantial and were considered to be less than significant. Section 5.2 of the SDIP EIS/EIR provides an assessment of changes in tidal elevations. The analysis concluded that operation of Stage 1 or Stage 2 would result in substantial change in tidal elevations within the Delta. Table 5.2-6 provides a summary of the expected changes.

SN-2

Section 5.5 of the SDIP EIS/EIR provides an assessment of the potential flood control impacts of the project. The gates have been designed to be flood neutral and would not affect flood stages or channel velocities.

Comment Letter AP

AP

Mr. Paul A. Marshall California Department of Water Resources 1416 9th Street - 2nd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814

FEB 0 9 2006 60191

Dear Mr. Marshall,

Hello, my name is Alyssa Parsons. I am currently an eighth grader at Saint Edward School in the Bay Area. I am writing this letter because I am concerned about the fish population decreasing if you start pumping water into the bay.

The Delta smelt is at the lowest amount it has ever been at! If you decide to pump the water into the Delta we will loose many native fish. The Fish biologists believe that there are three reasons that may cause the Delta to collapse. One is the water quality, another is massive fresh water diversion, and exotic species may die. Please don't let this happen.

California can meet the amount of water that we need without having to pump water into the estuary! The Delta Estuary is the largest Estuary in the Western States as you may already know and we need to protect it. Besides hurting the Bay Area by pumping the water into the Delta you will hurt Southern California.

AP-1

The Delta will still provide enough water to last far into the future without having to pump the water. If you pump it the water quality won't be that great and the Delta will collapse. There are many other ways to treat this problem but try to choose an environmentally friendly way.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and listening to my ideas and opinions!

Alyssa Parsons

AP-1

Please see Master Response D, Developing and Screening Alternatives Considered in the South Delta Improvements Program Draft EIS/EIR and Master Response L, Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the California Water Plan Update 2005.

AP-2

Please see Master Response B, Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline and Master Response K, Staged Decision Making Process.

Comment Letter MP

MP

MP-2

From: conchita@eyeline.tv

Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2006 10:32 AM

To: sdip_comments

Subject: South Delta Improvement Project DEIR/S

Paul Marshall, California Department of Water Resources 1416 9th Street ? 2nd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Paul Marshall, California Department of Water Resources,

I am very concerned that the San Francisco Bay-Delta ecosystem is collapsing and some fish populations are in danger of extinction. Why even consider a plan that would significantly increase the amount of fresh water diverted out of the San Francisco Bay-Delta????

I urge you to withdraw the draft until the causes of the decline are identified and resolved.

We must first restore the Bay-Delta ecosystem. The California State Water Plan has clearly shown that the state can meet current and future water demand without increasing pumping if investments are made in urban and agricultural water conservation and reclamation.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Maria Perales 1313 Mound St. Alameda, California 94501

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MP-1

Please see Master Response B, Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline.

MP-2

Please see Master Response L, Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the California Water Plan Update 2005.

Comment Letter JGP

	PO Box 425
	PO Box 425 Los Gatos CA 95031
Dear Mr Marshall,	12 Jan 06
	JAN 2 0 20063
am writing in response to	
I am writing in response to project (SDIP) DEIR/S.	7
project 111,5 102175.	
This project seems to have a	en unneccessary goal: why do
	for the Delta, when the state's
Dun draft California Water	Plan Wolate States that we
Can mest I of my water &	Plan Update states that we were
can meet all of our water n	cees took into the tarks
by increasing exticioncy and received	from of urban and agricultural
water use:	
Cine Man unfollow history	el allace in the Dolta I all
Given the unitological biological	el collapse in the Delta, I ask
that you with arow the	DIF DEITY'S completely. Or
amend it so that it would	DIP DEIR/s completely. Or , actually improve the south
Delta - by decreasing the	pumping from today's levels.
Please include me on your	mailing list to be notified
of any decisions or activity	re mailing list to be notified ties concerning this project.
) / /
Sincer	dy
0	20
19pm	E Ven
1 Jose	ph G Pekrofsky

JGP-1

Please see Master Response L Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the California Water Plan Update 2005.

JGP-2

Please see Master Response D, Developing and Screening Alternatives Considered in the South Delta Improvements Program Draft EIS/EIR.